UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA

BACKGROUND

Fighting between the Armed Forces of the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) first broke out in October 1990 across the border between Rwanda and its northern neighbour, Uganda.

Despite a number of cease-fire agreements thereafter, hostilities resumed in the northern part of the country in early February 1993. These interrupted comprehensive negotiations between the Government of Rwanda and RPF, supported by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and facilitated by the United Republic of Tanzania.

In support of resumption of the negotiations, Rwanda and Uganda, in separate letters to the President of the Security Council on 22 February 1993, called for the deployment of United Nations military observers along the 150-kilometre common border in order to prevent the military use of the area, especially the transportation of military supplies. RPF control of the border has been extensive.

Following consultations in the Security Council on 24 February concerning these letters, the Secretary-General decided to send a goodwill mission to Rwanda and Uganda. He instructed it to examine all major aspects of the peace process including the possibility of deploying military observers along the border. The goodwill mission carried out this mandate during 4-18 March 1993.

Meanwhile, efforts by OAU and Tanzania led to a meeting between the Government of Rwanda and RPF from 5 to 7 March at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. In a closing joint communiqué, the Government of Rwanda and RPF pledged their commitment to a negotiated settlement and agreed to reinstate the cease-fire on 9 March and to the resumption of peace talks in Arusha, Tanzania. They also committed themselves to providing adequate security and protection to displaced persons.

On 12 March 1993, the Security Council, by its resolution 812 (1993), called on the Government of Rwanda and RPF to respect the renewed cease-fire, to resume negotiations, to allow the delivery of humanitarian supplies and the return of displaced persons, and to fulfil the obligations and commitments the parties had made in the past. The Council also welcomed the goodwill mission the Secretary-General had sent to Rwanda and Uganda. Finally, it asked him to examine the requests of those two countries for the deployment of observers along their common border.

Following the adoption of the Council resolution, the Secretary-General sent a technical mission to assess the concept of military observers. It visited Uganda from 2 to 5 April and Rwanda on 6 April. The mission reported that it would be possible to deploy United Nations military observers to monitor the border between Uganda and Rwanda and verify that no military assistance — lethal weapons, ammunition and other material of possible military use — was being provided across it. It was decided that deployment of the observers would be on the Uganda side of the border only.

SECURITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES ESTABLISHMENT OF OBSERVER MISSION

On 22 June 1993, the Security Council, by its resolution 846 (1993), authorized the establishment of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) on the Uganda side of the common border, for an initial period of up to six months. The duration of the mission is subject to review, following the conclusion of the Arusha talks (see PEACE TALKS IN ARUSHA below). The Council decided that the verification would focus primarily on transit or transport, by roads or tracks which could accommodate vehicles, of lethal weapons and ammunition across the border, as well as any other material which could be of military use

The Council requested the Secretary-General to conclude a status of mission agreement with the Government of Uganda which would include assurance of safety, cooperation and support of the Mission by Uganda. The authorized strength of UNOMUR is 81 military observers, 17 international and seven local civilian support staff.

UNOMUR is to be headed by Brigadier-General Romeo A. Dallaire of Canada as Chief Military Observer, reporting to the Secretary-General. All matters

affecting the nature or the continued effective functioning of the mission would be referred to the Security Council for its decision.

The Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to support the peace efforts of OAU by putting two military experts at its disposal to help expedite the deployment of OAU's neutral military observer group to Rwanda. The Secretary-General was requested to report on the contribution the United Nations could make to assist OAU in implementing the peace agreement and to begin contingency planning in the event that the Council decided that such a contribution was needed.

The Secretary-General estimates that the cost of the Observer Mission would amount to some $8,500,000 for an initial six-month period. The costs of the Mission are to be met by the assessed contributions of United Nations Member States.

PEACE TALKS IN ARUSHA

In a related development, Mr. Macaire Pédanou, head of the United Nations goodwill mission remained in Tanzania to observe, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Arusha talks on a comprehensive peace agreement between the Government of Rwanda and RPF. These had reconvened on 16 March 1993.

The talks cover military issues, refugees and displaced persons, and outstanding political matters, including the amendment of the constitution, as well as the duration of the transitional period. Early in the talks the parties also began to discuss an international neutral force to oversee the implementation of key aspects of the peace agreement and to create confidence during the transition period.

In a joint request to the Security Council from Arusha on 11 June, the two parties called on the United Nations to send a reconnaissance mission to Rwanda as speedily as possible. This mission would prepare for the quick deployment of a neutral international force as soon as the peace agreement under negotiation was signed. The request welcomed the decision made in consultations between the United Nations and OAU that the United Nations should assume responsibility for and command of such a force. The parties asked that the force should guarantee public security, especially for the delivery of humanitarian aid. It would also assist in searches for weapons caches, neutralization of armed bands, demining, civilian disarmament and the cessation of hostilities. The parties also requested that the international force oversee the demobilization of existing armed forces and of all aspects of the formation of the new National Army and National Gendarmerie.

On 4 August 1993, the Government of Rwanda and RPF signed the peace agreement.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On 15 April 1993, the United Nations launched an inter-agency appeal for international assistance covering a period from April to December 1993 amounting to $78 million to meet the needs of over 900,000 war-displaced people, or approximately 13 per cent of the nation's population. The appeal was the result of a request by the President of Rwanda to the Secretary-General earlier in 1993 following a three-fold increase in the number of the displaced persons whose emergency needs had overwhelmed the local capacity to supply them.

Most of the displaced were living in and around 30 camps where serious malnutrition and disease were prevalent. The situation was exacerbated by Rwanda's already precarious economic condition, overpopulation and rapidly declining agricultural production.

An inter-agency mission, led by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), was fielded between 18 and 25 March to prepare a consolidated appeal with all concerned United Nations agencies. The appeal presents priority emergency relief projects focusing on food, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, shelter and household items and education. The projects would be undertaken singly or jointly by the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and DHA, in close collaboration with Governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations.

Following the signing of the Kinihira agreement of 30 May 1993 between the Government of Rwanda and RPF on the return and the resettlement of the displaced persons to the demilitarized zone in northern Rwanda, an estimated 500,000 displaced people have returned home. These movements have led to the closing of several camps for the displaced and the emphasis of the humanitarian assistance efforts has shifted to meeting the needs of displaced returning home.

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